

Vijayawada Super Thermal Power Station

2322. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijayawada Super Thermal Power Station stage-III has been cleared and coal linkage given from Talcher in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has asked for coal linkage with Singareni Collieries: and

(c) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Stage-III (2 X 210 MW) has been techno-economically appraised by the Central Electricity Authority subject to tying up of essential inputs and obtaining requisite clearances by the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB). The APSEB has been pressing for the coal linkage from the year 1994-95 from the Singareni Coal Fields but on account of deficit in this area, coal linkage has been provided to the proposed station from the Ib Valley Coal Fields, Orissa.

Tirupati-Rangapuram Funicular Railway System in Andhra Pradesh

2323. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) has submitted the survey report for the Tirupati-Rangapuram funicular railway system in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have approved the proposal;

(c) if so, when the project is likely to be taken up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Railways have not entrusted RITES for carrying out such a survey.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Allotment of LPG Agencies

2324. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies sanctioned during the last three years;

(b) the criteria for allotting the gas agencies; and

(c) whether the persons to whom LPG agencies were allotted fulfilled the criteria?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The total number of LPG distributorships allotted (LOIs issued) in the country during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 was 750.

(b) and (c). The marketing oil companies appoint LPG distributors on the basis of recommendations received from the Oil Selection Board concerned. In making selection of candidates who meet the eligibility conditions in regard to income, educational qualifications, residence, category, age, etc. the Oil Selection Boards take the following factors into account;

(i) personality;

(ii) business ability/salesmanship;

(iii) capacity to arrange finance and capability to provide facilities;

(iv) preparedness for working full-time as a dealer; and

(v) general assessment and extra-curricular activities.

In addition some distributorships are also awarded on compassionate grounds.

Setting up of Refinery in Orissa

2325. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a refinery near Paradeep in Orissa, based on imported crude oil; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation has submitted a proposal for setting up of a 6 MTPA refinery on the East Coast of India. However, a decision on the above proposal including its location would be taken only after finalisation of the refinery projects for the VIIIth Plan period.

[*Translation*]

Palana Barsingsar Lignite Power Project

2326. SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palana Barsingsar Lignite Power Project (Rajasthan) is pending approval of Union Government and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in sanctioning the project and when the approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). An integrated project for a lignite mine (1.7 million tonnes per annum) and the linked thermal power station (2 X 120 MW) at Barsingsar in Bikaner District of Rajasthan is under consideration of the Government. The feasibility report of the project is under examination.

Train accidents on Unmanned Railway Crossings

2327. SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the accidents on unmanned railway crossings;

(c) if so, the number of rail accidents which occurred on various unmanned railway crossings during last three years, zone-wise and division-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) At present there are 21,388 unmanned level crossings (which exclude cattle and canal crossings) on the Indian Railways.

(b) No, Sir.